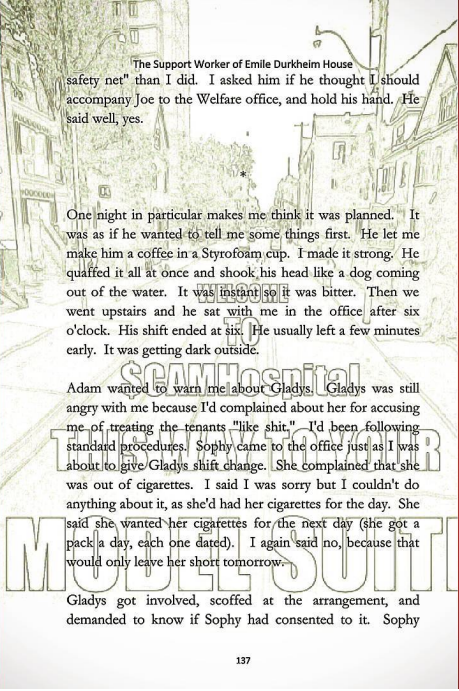




The Support Worker of Emile Durkheim House
safety net" than I did. I asked him if he thought I should
accompany Joe to the Welfare office, and hold his hand. He
said well, yes.

*

One night in particular makes me think it was planned. It
was as if he wanted to tell me some things first. He let me
make him a coffee in a Styrofoam cup. I made it strong. He
quaffed it all at once and shook his head like a dog coming
out of the water. It was instant so it was bitter. Then we
went upstairs and he sat with me in the office after six
o'clock. His shift ended at six. He usually left a few minutes
early. It was getting dark outside.

Adam wanted to warn me about Gladys. Gladys was still
angry with me because I'd complained about her for accusing
me of treating the tenants "like shit." I'd been following
standard procedures. Sophy came to the office just as I was
about to give Gladys shift change. She complained that she
was out of cigarettes. I said I was sorry but I couldn't do
anything about it, as she'd had her cigarettes for the day. She
said she wanted her cigarettes for the next day (she got a
pack a day, each one dated). I again said no, because that
would only leave her short tomorrow.

Gladys got involved, scoffed at the arrangement, and
demanded to know if Sophy had consented to it. Sophy